AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 10, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE-1999-2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1895

Introduced by Assembly Member Ackerman

February 10, 2000

An act to amend Sections 158, 202, 301.5, 305, 306, 503, 602, 603, 2115, 5220, 5512, 7220, 7512, 9220, 9412, 12360, 12462, 25014.7, 25100, 25101, 25102, and 25117 of, and to add Section 163.1 to, the Corporations Code, and to amend Section 11521.2 of the Insurance Code, relating to corporations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1895, as amended, Ackerman. Corporations.

Existing law sets forth organizational procedures and filing requirements for corporations. Existing law also regulates the ownership and sale of, and investment in, securities registered on a national securities exchange, as provided by federal law.

This bill would make various changes relating to corporations and securities, including the following:

- (1) Adds a definition of "cumulative dividends in arrears" for shareholder distributions.
- (2) Revises the provision regarding professional corporations.
- (3) Changes a reference to securities listed on the National Market System of the NASDAQ Stock Market in various provisions of law.
- (4) Specifies the conditions regarding election of a director to fill a vacancy not created by removal of a director.

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(5) Authorizes a superior court to appoint directors of various types of nonprofit corporations if the corporation has no shareholders or initial directors have not been named and all of the directors die, resign, or become incompetent.

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(6) Specifies the conditions of a board's approval of business items if members leave before a vote.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 158 of the Corporations Code is 1 2 amended to read:

158. (a) "Close corporation" means a corporation whose articles contain, in addition to the provisions required by Section 202, a provision that all of the 5 corporation's issued shares of all classes shall be held of record by not more than a specified number of persons, not exceeding 35, and a statement "This corporation is a close corporation."

- (b) The special provisions referred to in subdivision 11 (a) may be included in the articles by amendment, but 12 if such amendment is adopted after the issuance of shares 13 only by the affirmative vote of all of the issued and 14 outstanding shares of all classes.
- (c) The special provisions referred to in subdivision 16 (a) may be deleted from the articles by amendment, or the number of shareholders specified may be changed by 18 amendment, but if such amendment is adopted after the 19 issuance of shares only by the affirmative vote of at least 20 two-thirds of each class of the outstanding shares; provided, however, that the articles may provide for a 22 lesser vote, but not less than a majority of the outstanding shares, or may deny a vote to any class, or both.
- (d) In determining the number of shareholders for the 25 purposes of the provision in the articles authorized by this 26 section. personal husband and wife and the а either shall representative of be counted regardless of how shares may be held by either or both of

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them, a trust or personal representative of a decedent holding shares shall be counted as one regardless of the number of trustees or beneficiaries and a partnership or corporation or business association holding shares shall be counted as one (except that any such trust or entity the primary purpose of which was the acquisition or voting of the shares shall be counted according to the number of beneficial interests therein).

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- (e) A corporation shall cease to be a close corporation 10 upon the filing of an amendment to its articles pursuant to subdivision (c) or if it shall have more than the maximum number of holders of record of its shares specified in its articles as a result of an inter vivos transfer 14 of shares which is not void under subdivision (d) of Section 418, the transfer of shares on distribution by will 16 or pursuant to the laws of descent and distribution, the dissolution of a partnership or corporation or business association or the termination of a trust which holds shares, by court decree upon dissolution of a marriage or 20 otherwise by operation of law. Promptly upon acquiring 21 more than the specified number of holders of record of its shares, a close corporation shall execute and file an amendment to its articles deleting the special provisions referred to in subdivision (a) and deleting any other provisions not permissible for a corporation which is not a close corporation, which amendment shall be promptly approved and filed by the board and need not be approved by the outstanding shares.
- (f) Nothing contained in this section shall invalidate 30 any agreement among the shareholders to vote for the deletion from the articles of the special provisions referred to in subdivision (a) upon the lapse of a specified period of time or upon the occurrence of a certain event or condition or otherwise.
- 35 (g) The following sections contain specific references 36 to close corporations: 186, 202, 204, 300, 418, 421, 1111, 1201, 1800 and 1904. 37
- 38 SEC. 2. Section 163.1 is added to the Corporations 39 Code, to read:

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163.1. For purposes of Section 503, "cumulative dividends in arrears" means only cumulative dividends that have not been paid as required on a scheduled payment date set forth in, or determined pursuant to, the articles of incorporation, regardless of whether those dividends had been declared prior to that scheduled payment date.

- SEC. 3. Section 202 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
 - 202. The articles of incorporation shall set forth:
- (a) The name of the corporation; provided, however, 12 that in order for the corporation to be subject to the provisions of this division applicable to a close corporation 14 (Section 158), the name of the corporation must contain the word "corporation", "incorporated" or "limited" or an abbreviation of one of such words.
- (b) (1) The applicable of the following 18 statements:
- (i) The purpose of the corporation is to engage in any 20 lawful act or activity for which a corporation may be organized under the General Corporation Law 22 California other than the banking business, the trust 23 company the practice of a profession business or incorporated 24 permitted to be by the California 25 Corporations Code; or
- (ii) The purpose of the corporation is to engage in the 27 profession of _____ (with the insertion of a profession 28 permitted to be incorporated by the California 29 Corporations Code) and any other lawful activities 30 (other than the banking or trust company business) not prohibited to a corporation engaging in such profession by applicable laws and regulations.
- (2) In case the corporation is a corporation subject to 34 the Banking Law, the articles shall set forth a statement of purpose which is prescribed in the applicable provision 36 of the Banking Law.
- (3) In case the corporation is a corporation subject to 38 the Insurance Code as an insurer, the articles shall additionally state that the business of the corporation is to be an insurer.

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(4) If the corporation is intended to be a "professional corporation" within the meaning of the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 (commencing with 13400) of Division 3), the articles additionally contain the statement required by Section 13404.

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The articles shall not set forth any further or additional statement with respect to the purposes or powers of the corporation, except by way of limitation or except as 10 expressly required by any law of this state other than this division or any federal or other statute or regulation 12 (including the Internal Revenue Code and regulations thereunder as a condition of acquiring or maintaining a particular status for tax purposes).

- (c) The name and address in this state of the 16 corporation's initial agent for service of process in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 1502.
- (d) If the corporation is authorized to issue only one 19 class of shares, the total number of shares which the corporation is authorized to issue.
- (e) If the corporation is authorized to issue more than one class of shares, or if any class of shares is to have two 23 or more series:
- (1) The total number of shares of each class the 25 corporation is authorized to issue, and the total number of shares of each series which the corporation is authorized to issue or that the board is authorized to fix the number of shares of any such series;
- (2) The designation of each class, and the designation 30 of each series or that the board may determine the designation of any such series; and
- (3) The rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions granted to or imposed upon the respective classes or 34 series of shares or the holders thereof, or that the board, 35 within any limits and restrictions stated, may determine 36 or alter the rights, preferences, privileges and restrictions granted to or imposed upon any wholly unissued class of 38 shares or any wholly unissued series of any class of shares. As to any series the number of shares of which is authorized to be fixed by the board, the articles may also

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authorize the board, within the limits and restrictions stated therein or stated in any resolution or resolutions of the board originally fixing the number of shares constituting any series, to increase or decrease (but not 5 below the number of shares of such series then outstanding) the number of shares of any such series subsequent to the issue of shares of that series. In case the number of shares of any series shall be so decreased, the shares constituting such decrease shall resume the status which they had prior to the adoption of the resolution 10 originally fixing the number of shares of such series.

SEC. 4. Section 301.5 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

301.5. (a) A listed corporation may, by amendment 15 of its articles or bylaws, adopt provisions to divide the 16 board of directors into two or three classes to serve for terms of two or three years respectively, or to eliminate 18 cumulative voting, or both. After the issuance of shares, a corporation which is not a listed corporation may, by amendment of its articles or bylaws, adopt provisions to be effective when the corporation becomes a listed 22 corporation to divide the board of directors into two or 23 three classes to serve for terms of two or three years 24 respectively, or to eliminate cumulative voting, or both. 25 An article or bylaw amendment providing for division of the board of directors into classes, or any change in the number of classes, or the elimination of cumulative voting may only be adopted by the approval of the board and the outstanding shares (Section 152) voting as a single class, 30 notwithstanding Section 903.

(b) If the board of directors is divided into two classes 32 pursuant to subdivision (a), the authorized number of 33 directors shall be no less than six and one-half of the directors or as close an approximation as possible shall be elected at each annual meeting of shareholders. If the board of directors is divided into three classes, the authorized number of directors shall be no less than nine one-third of the directors or close as approximation as possible shall be elected at each annual meeting of shareholders. Directors of a listed corporation **— 7 — AB 1895**

may be elected by classes at a meeting of shareholders at which an amendment to the articles or bylaws described 3 in subdivision (a) is approved, but the extended terms for directors are contingent on that approval, and in the case of an amendment to the articles, the filing of any necessary amendment to the articles pursuant to Section 905 or 910.

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- (c) If directors for more than one class are to be elected by the shareholders at any one meeting 10 shareholders and the election is by cumulative voting pursuant to Section 708, votes may be cumulated only for directors to be elected within each class.
- (d) For purposes of this section, a "listed corporation" 14 means any of the following:
- (1) A corporation with outstanding shares listed on the 16 New York Stock Exchange or the American Stock Exchange.
 - (2) A corporation with outstanding securities listed on the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market (or any successor to that entity).
- (e) Subject to subdivision (h), if a listed corporation 22 having a board of directors divided into classes pursuant 23 to subdivision (a) ceases to be a listed corporation for any 24 reason, unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws of 25 the corporation provide for the elimination of classes of 26 directors at an earlier date or dates, the board of directors of the corporation shall cease to be divided into classes as 28 to each class of directors on the date of the expiration of the term of the directors in that class and the term of each 30 director serving at the time the corporation ceases to be a listed corporation (and the term of each director elected to fill a vacancy resulting from the death, resignation, or removal of any of those directors) shall 34 continue until its expiration as if the corporation had not ceased to be a listed corporation.
 - (f) Subject to subdivision (h), if a listed corporation having a provision in its articles or bylaws eliminating cumulative voting subdivision pursuant to (a) permitting noncumulative voting in the election of directors pursuant to that subdivision, or both, ceases to

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be a listed corporation for any reason, the shareholders shall be entitled to cumulate their votes pursuant to Section 708 at any election of directors occurring while listed corporation the corporation is not a 5 notwithstanding provision in articles that its incorporation or bylaws.

- (g) Subject to subdivision (i), if a corporation that is not a listed corporation adopts amendments to its articles of incorporation or bylaws to divide its board of directors 10 into classes or to eliminate cumulative voting, or both, pursuant to subdivision (a) and then becomes a listed corporation, unless the articles of incorporation or bylaws provide for those provisions to become effective at some 14 other time and, in cases where classes of directors are provided for, identify the directors who. 16 directorships that, are to be in each class or the method 17 by which those directors or directorships are to be 18 identified, the provisions shall become effective for the next election of directors after the corporation becomes a listed corporation at which all directors are to be elected.
- (h) If a corporation ceases to be a listed corporation on or after the record date for a meeting of shareholders and prior to the conclusion of the meeting, including the 25 conclusion of the meeting after an adjournment or postponement that does not require or result in the setting of a new record date, then, solely for purposes of subdivisions (e) and (f), the corporation shall not be deemed to have ceased to be a listed corporation until the conclusion of the meeting of shareholders.
- (i) If a corporation becomes a listed corporation on or after the record date for a meeting of shareholders and prior to the conclusion of the meeting, including the conclusion of the meeting after an adjournment or postponement that does not require or result in the 36 setting of a new record date, then, solely for purposes of subdivision (g), the corporation shall not be deemed to have become a listed corporation until the conclusion of the meeting of shareholders.

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(i) If an article amendment referred to in subdivision (a) is adopted by a listed corporation, the certificate of amendment shall include a statement of the facts showing that the corporation is a listed corporation within the meaning of subdivision (d). If an article or bylaw amendment referred to in subdivision (a) is adopted by a corporation which is not a listed corporation, the provision, adopted, shall include the statement or the substantial equivalent: "This provision become effective only when the corporation becomes a listed corporation within the meaning of Section 301.5 of the Corporations Code."

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SEC. 5. Section 305 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

305. (a) Unless otherwise provided in the articles or 16 bylaws and except for a vacancy created by the removal of a director, vacancies on the board may be filled by approval of the board (Section 151) or, if the number of directors then in office is less than a quorum, by (1) the 20 unanimous written consent of the directors then in office, 21 (2) the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors then 22 in office at a meeting held pursuant to notice or waivers 23 of notice complying with Section 307 or (3) a sole remaining director. Unless the articles or a bylaw adopted by the shareholders provide that the board may fill vacancies occurring in the board by reason of the removal of directors, such vacancies may be filled only by approval of the shareholders (Section 153).

- (b) The shareholders may elect a director at any time 30 to fill any vacancy not filled by the directors. Any such election by written consent other than to fill a vacancy created by removal, which requires the unanimous consent of all shares entitled to vote for the election of directors, requires the consent of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote.
 - (c) If, after the filling of any vacancy by the directors, the directors then in office who have been elected by the shareholders shall constitute less than a majority of the directors then in office, then both of the following shall be applicable:

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(1) Any holder or holders of an aggregate of 5 percent or more of the total number of shares at the time outstanding having the right to vote for those directors may call a special meeting of shareholders, or

(2) The superior court of the proper county shall, upon application of such shareholder or shareholders, summarily order a special meeting of shareholders, to be held to elect the entire board. The term of office of any director shall terminate upon that election of a successor.

The hearing on any application filed pursuant to this subdivision shall be held on not less than 10 business days notice to the corporation. If the corporation intends to oppose the application, it shall file with the court a notice 14 of opposition not later than five business days prior to the date set for the hearing. The application and any notice 16 of opposition shall be supported by appropriate affidavits and the court's determination shall be made on the basis 18 of the papers in the record; but, for good cause shown, the court may receive and consider at the hearing additional 20 evidence, oral or documentary, and additional points and authorities. The hearing shall take precedence over all other matters not of a similar nature pending on the date set for the hearing.

(d) Any director may resign effective upon giving 25 written notice to the chairman of the board, president, the secretary or the board of directors of the corporation, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. If the resignation is effective at a future time, a successor may be elected to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

SEC. 6. Section 306 of the Corporations Code is 32 amended to read:

306. If (a) a corporation has not issued shares and all 34 the directors resign, die, or become incompetent, or (b) a corporation's initial directors have not been named in 36 the articles, and all the incorporators resign, die, or become incompetent prior to the election of the initial directors, the superior court of any county may appoint directors of the corporation upon application by any party in interest.

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SEC. 7. Section 503 of the Corporations Code is 1 2 amended to read:

3 503. Neither a corporation nor any of its subsidiaries distribution to the shall any corporation's 5 shareholders (Section 166) on any shares of its stock of any class or series that are junior to outstanding shares of any other class or series with respect to payment of dividends, and as to which senior class or series the corporation has cumulative dividends in arrears, unless the amount of the 10 retained earnings of the corporation immediately prior thereto equals or exceeds the amount of the proposed 12 distribution plus the aggregate amount of the cumulative dividends in arrears on all shares having a preference 14 with respect to payment of dividends over the class or series to which the distribution is made; provided, 16 however, that for the purpose of applying this section to a distribution by a corporation of cash or property in 17 payment by the corporation in connection with the purchase of its shares, there shall be added to retained 20 earnings all amounts that had been previously deducted 21 therefrom with respect to obligations incurred 22 connection with the corporation's repurchase of its shares 23 and reflected on the corporation's balance sheet, but not 24 in excess of the principal of the obligations that remain 25 unpaid immediately prior to the distribution; provided, further, that no addition to retained earnings shall occur on account of any obligation that is a distribution to the corporation's shareholders (Section 166) at the time the obligation is incurred.

SEC. 8. Section 602 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

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602. (a) Unless otherwise provided in the articles, a majority of the shares entitled to vote, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the shareholders, but in no event shall a quorum consist 36 of less than one-third (or, in the case of a mutual water company, 20 percent) of the shares entitled to vote at the meeting or, except in the case of a close corporation, of more than a majority of the shares entitled to vote at the meeting. Except as provided in subdivision (b),

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affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented and voting at a duly held meeting at which a quorum is present (which shares voting affirmatively also constitute at least a majority of the required quorum) shall be the act of the shareholders, unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by this division or the articles.

- (b) The shareholders present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to 10 transact business until adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough shareholders to leave less than a quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a majority of the shares required to 14 constitute a quorum or, if required by this division or the articles, the vote of a greater number or voting by classes.
 - (c) In the absence of a quorum, any meeting of shareholders may be adjourned from time to time by the vote of a majority of the shares represented either in person or by proxy, but no other business may be transacted, except as provided in subdivision (b).
 - SEC. 9. Section 603 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
- 603. (a) Unless otherwise provided in the articles, 24 any action which may be taken at any annual or special meeting of shareholders may be taken without a meeting and without prior notice, if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by the holders of outstanding shares having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all shares entitled to vote thereon were present and voted.
 - (b) Unless the consents of all shareholders entitled to vote have been solicited in writing,
 - (1) Notice of any shareholder approval pursuant to Section 310, 317, 1201 or 2007 without a meeting by less than unanimous written consent shall be given at least 10 days before the consummation of the action authorized by such approval, and
 - (2) Prompt notice shall be given of the taking of any corporate action approved by

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- to those shareholders entitled to vote who have not consented in writing. Subdivision (b) of Section 601 applies to such notice.
- (c) Any shareholder giving a written consent, or the shareholder's proxyholders, or a transferee of the shares or a personal representative of the shareholder or their respective proxyholders, may revoke the consent by a 10 writing received by the corporation prior to the time that written consents of the number of shares required to authorize the proposed action have been filed with the 12 secretary of the corporation, but may not do so thereafter. 14 Such revocation is effective upon its receipt by the secretary of the corporation.
- subdivision (d) Notwithstanding (a), directors not be elected by written consent except by unanimous 18 written consent of all shares entitled to vote for the election of directors; provided that the shareholders may elect a director to fill a vacancy, other than a vacancy created by removal, by the written consent of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote.
- SEC. 10. Section 2115 of the Corporations Code is 24 amended to read:
- 2115. (a) A foreign corporation (other than a foreign 26 association or foreign nonprofit corporation but including a foreign parent corporation even though it does not itself transact intrastate business) is subject to the requirements of subdivision (b) if the average of the property factor, the payroll factor, and the sales factor (as defined in Sections 25129, 25132, and 25134 of the Revenue and Taxation Code) with respect to it is more than 50 percent during its latest full income year and if 34 more than one-half of its outstanding voting securities are held of record by persons having addresses in this state. 36 The property factor, payroll factor, and sales factor shall 37 be those used in computing the portion of its income allocable to this state in its franchise tax return or, with respect to corporations the allocation of whose income is governed by special formulas or that are not required to

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file separate or any tax returns, which would have been so used if they were governed by this three-factor formula. The determination of these factors with respect 3 to any parent corporation shall be made on a consolidated 5 basis, including in a unitary computation (after elimination of intercompany transactions) the property, 6 payroll, and sales of the parent and all of its subsidiaries in which it owns directly or indirectly more than 50 8 9 percent of the outstanding shares entitled to vote for the election of directors, but deducting a percentage of the 10 property, payroll, and sales of any subsidiary equal to the percentage minority ownership, if any, in the subsidiary. 12 13 For the purpose of this subdivision, any securities held to 14 the knowledge of the issuer in the names of broker-dealers, nominees for broker-dealers (including 15 elearing corporations), or banks, associations, or other 16 17 entities holding securities in a nominee name or otherwise on behalf of a beneficial owner (collectively 18 "Nominee Holders"), shall not be considered 19 outstanding. However, if the foreign corporation requests all Nominee Holders to certify, with respect to all 21 22 beneficial owners for whom securities are held, the 23 number of shares held for those beneficial owners having addresses (as shown on the records of the Nominee 24 Holder) in this state and outside of this state, then all 25 shares so certified shall be considered outstanding and 26 27 held of record by persons having addresses either in this 28 state or outside of this state as so certified, provided that the certification so provided shall be retained with the record of shareholders and made available for inspection and copying in the same manner as is provided in Section 1600 with respect to that record. A current list of 32 33 beneficial owners of a foreign corporation's securities provided to the corporation by one or more Nominee 34 Holders or their agent pursuant to the requirements of 35 36 Rule 14b-1(b)(3) or 14b-2(b)(3) as adopted on January 6, 1992, promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act 37 of 1934, shall constitute an acceptable certification with 38 39 respect to beneficial owners for the purposes of this 40 subdivision.

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      (b) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the
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   following chapters and sections of this division shall apply
    to a foreign corporation as defined in subdivision (a) (to
   the exclusion of the law of the jurisdiction in which it is
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   incorporated):
      Chapter 1 (general provisions and definitions), to the
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    extent applicable to the following provisions;
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      Section 301 (annual election of directors);
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      Section 303 (removal of directors without cause);
      Section 304 (removal of directors by court
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   proceedings);
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      Section 305, subdivision (c) (filling of director
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   vacancies where less than a majority in office elected by
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   shareholders);
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      Section 309 (directors' standard of care);
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      Section 316 (excluding paragraph (3) of subdivision (a)
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    and paragraph (3) of subdivision (f)) (liability of
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    directors for unlawful distributions);
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      Section 317 (indemnification of directors, officers, and
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   others);
      Sections 500 to 505, inclusive (limitations on corporate
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    distributions in cash or property);
      Section 506 (liability of shareholder who receives
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   unlawful distribution);
      Section 600, subdivisions (b) and (c) (requirement for
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   annual shareholders' meeting and remedy if same not
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   timely held);
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      Section 708, subdivisions (a), (b), and (c)
   (shareholder's right to cumulate votes at any election of
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    directors);
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      Section 710 (supermajority vote requirement);
      Section 1001, subdivision (d) (limitations on sale of
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   assets);
      Section 1101 (provisions following subdivision (e))
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    (limitations on mergers);
      Chapter 12 (commencing with Section 1200)
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   (reorganizations);
      Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 1300)
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    (dissenters' rights);
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Sections 1500 and 1501 (records and reports);

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1 Section 1508 (action by Attorney General);

Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 1600) (rights of inspection).

(c) This section does not apply to any corporation (1) with outstanding securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange or the American Stock Exchange, or (2) with outstanding securities listed on the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market (or any successor to that entity) if the corporation has at least 800 holders of its equity securities as of the record date of its most recent 10 annual meeting of shareholders, or (3) if all of its voting shares (other than directors' qualifying shares) are owned directly or indirectly by a corporation or corporations not subject to this section. For purposes of determining the number of holders of a corporation's equity securities under clause (2) of this subdivision, there shall be included, in addition to the number of recordholders reflected on the corporation's stock records, the number of holders of the equity securities held in the name of any Nominee Holder that furnishes the corporation with a certification pursuant to subdivision (a) provided that the corporation retains the certification with the record of shareholders and makes 24 it available for inspection and copying in the same manner as is provided in Section 1600 with respect to that record.

(d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirements of subdivision (b) shall become applicable to a foreign corporation only upon the first day of the first income year of the corporation (i) commencing on or after the 135th day of the income year immediately following the latest income year with respect to which the tests referred to in subdivision (a) have been met or (ii) commencing on or after the entry of a final order by a court of competent jurisdiction declaring that those tests have been met.

(e) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirements of subdivision (b) shall cease to be applicable to a foreign eorporation (i) at the end of the first income year of the corporation immediately following the latest income year **— 17 — AB 1895**

1 with respect to which at least one of the tests referred to 2 in subdivision (a) is not met or (ii) at the end of the 3 income year of the corporation during which a final order 4 has been entered by a court of competent jurisdiction 5 declaring that one of those tests is not met, provided that a contrary order has not been entered before the end of 6 the income year.

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SEC. 10. Section 5220 of the Corporations Code is 10 amended to read:

5220. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), 12 directors shall be elected for such terms, not longer than 13 three years, as are fixed in the articles or bylaws. 14 However, the terms of directors of a corporation without 15 members may be up to six years. In the absence of any 16 provision in the articles or bylaws, the term shall be one 17 year. The articles or bylaws may provide for staggering 18 the terms of directors by dividing the total number of 19 directors into groups of one or more directors. The terms 20 of office of the several groups and the number of directors 21 in each group need not be uniform. No amendment of the articles or bylaws may extend the term of a director 23 beyond that for which the director was elected, nor may any bylaw provision increasing the terms of directors be adopted without approval of the members (Section 25 26 5034).

- (b) Unless the articles or bylaws otherwise provide, 28 each director, including a director elected to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term 30 for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified.
- (c) The articles or bylaws may provide for the election of one or more directors by the members of any class 34 voting as a class.
- (d) Subdivisions (a) through (c) notwithstanding, all 36 or any portion of the directors authorized in the articles or bylaws of a corporation may hold office by virtue of designation or selection as provided by the articles or bylaws rather than by election by a member or members. Such directors shall continue in office for the term

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prescribed by the governing article or bylaw provision, or, if there is no term prescribed, until the governing article or bylaw provision is duly amended or repealed, except as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 5222. A bylaw provision authorized by this subdivision may be adopted, amended, or repealed only by approval of the members (Section 5034), subject, if so provided in the bylaws, to the consent of the person or persons entitled to designate or select any such director or directors.

(e) If a corporation has not issued memberships and 11 (1) all the directors resign, die, or become incompetent, 12 or (2) a corporation's initial directors have not been 13 named in the articles and all incorporators resign, die, or 14 become incompetent before the election of the initial directors, the superior court of any county may appoint 16 directors of the corporation upon application by any party in interest.

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SEC. 11. Section 5512 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

5512. (a) One-third of the voting power, represented 22 in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a 23 meeting of members, but, subject to subdivisions (b) and 24 (c), a bylaw may set a different quorum. Any bylaw 25 amendment to increase the quorum may be adopted only 26 by approval of the members (Section 5034). If a quorum 27 is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the 28 voting power represented at the meeting, entitled to 29 vote, and voting on any matter shall be the act of the 30 members, unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by this part or the articles or bylaws.

(b) Where a bylaw authorizes a corporation 33 conduct a meeting with a quorum of less than one-third 34 of the voting power, then the only matters that may be 35 voted upon at any regular meeting actually attended, in 36 person or by proxy, by less than one-third of the voting power are matters notice of the general nature of which 38 was given, pursuant to the first sentence of subdivision 39 (a) of Section 5511.

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- (c) Subject to subdivision (b), the members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is may continue to transact business adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a majority of the members required to constitute a quorum or, if required by this division or the articles or the bylaws, the vote of a greater number or voting by classes.
- (d) In the absence of a quorum, any meeting of members may be adjourned from time to time by the vote of a majority of the votes represented either in person or by proxy, but no other business may be transacted, except as provided in subdivision (c).

SEC. 13.

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- SEC. 12. Section 7220 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
- 7220. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), 19 directors shall be elected for such terms, not longer than four years, as are fixed in the articles or bylaws. However, the terms of directors of a corporation without members may be up to six years. In the absence of any provision in 23 the articles or bylaws, the term shall be one year. The articles or bylaws may provide for staggering the terms of directors by dividing the total number of directors into groups of one or more directors. The terms of office of the several groups and the number of directors in each group 28 need not be uniform. No amendment of the articles or bylaws may extend the term of a director beyond that for 30 which the director was elected, nor may any bylaw provision increasing the terms of directors be adopted without approval of the members (Section 5034).
- (b) Unless the articles or bylaws otherwise provide, 34 each director, including a director elected to fill a vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term 36 for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified.
- 38 (c) The articles or bylaws may provide for the election of one or more directors by the members of any class voting as a class.

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- (d) Subdivisions (a) through (c) notwithstanding, all or any portion of the directors authorized in the articles or bylaws of a corporation may hold office by virtue of 4 designation or selection as provided by the articles or 5 bylaws rather than by election by a member or members. Such directors shall continue in office for the term prescribed by the governing article or bylaw provision, or, if there is no term prescribed, until the governing article or bylaw provision is duly amended or repealed, 10 except as provided in subdivision (e) of Section 7222. A bylaw provision authorized by this subdivision may be adopted, amended, or repealed only by approval of the 12 13 members (Section 5034).
- (e) If a corporation has not issued memberships and 15 (1) all the directors resign, die, or become incompetent, 16 or (2) a corporation's initial directors have not been 17 named in the articles and all incorporators resign, die, or 18 become incompetent before the election of the initial directors, the superior court of any county may appoint directors of the corporation upon application by any party in interest.

SEC. 14.

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- SEC. 13. Section 7512 of the Corporations Code is 24 amended to read:
- 7512. (a) One-third of the voting power, represented 26 in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of members, but, subject to subdivisions (b) and 28 (c), a bylaw may set a different quorum. Any bylaw 29 amendment to increase the quorum may be adopted only 30 by approval of the members (Section 5034). If a quorum 31 is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the 32 voting power represented at the meeting, entitled to vote, and voting on any matter shall be the act of the 34 members unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by this part or the articles or bylaws.
- (b) Where a bylaw authorizes a corporation 37 conduct a meeting with a quorum of less than one-third of the voting power, then the only matters that may be voted upon at any regular meeting actually attended, in person or by proxy, by less than one-third of the voting

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1 power are matters notice of the general nature of which was given, pursuant to the first sentence of subdivision (a) of Section 7511.

- (c) Subject to subdivision (b), the members present at 5 a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present continue to transact business may adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a 10 majority of the members required to constitute a quorum 11 or, if required by this division, or by the articles or the 12 bylaws, the vote of the greater number or voting by classes.
- (d) In the absence of a quorum, any meeting of 15 members may be adjourned from time to time by the vote 16 of a majority of the votes represented either in person or by proxy, but no other business may be transacted, except as provided in subdivision (c).

SEC. 15.

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- SEC. 14. Section 9220 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
- 9220. (a) The articles or bylaws may provide for the 23 tenure, election, selection, designation, removal, resignation of directors.
- (b) In the absence of any provision in the articles or 26 bylaws, the term of directors shall be one year.
- (c) Unless the articles or bylaws otherwise provide, 28 each director, including a director elected to fill a 29 vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term 30 for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified.
- (d) If a corporation has not issued memberships and 33 (1) all the directors resign, die, or become incompetent, 34 or (2) a corporation's initial directors have not been 35 named in the articles and all incorporators resign, die, or 36 become incompetent before the election of the initial directors, the superior court of any county may appoint directors of the corporation upon application by any party in interest.

SEC. 16.

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SEC. 15. Section 9412 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

- 9412. (a) One-third of the voting power, represented in person, by written ballot, or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of members. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of the majority of the voting power represented at the meeting, entitled to vote, and voting on any matter shall be the act of the members.
- (b) The members present at a duly called or held 10 meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business until adjournment notwithstanding the 12 withdrawal of enough members to leave less than a 13 quorum, if any action taken (other than adjournment) is 14 approved by at least a majority of the members required 15 to constitute a quorum or, if required by this division, or 16 by the articles or the bylaws, the vote of the greater 17 number or voting by classes.
- (c) In the absence of a quorum, any meeting of 19 members may be adjourned from time to time by the vote 20 of a majority of the votes represented either in person or by proxy, but no other business may be transacted, except as provided in subdivision (b).

SEC. 17.

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- SEC. 16. Section 12360 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
- 12360. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), 27 directors shall be elected for such terms, not longer than 28 four years, as are fixed in the articles or bylaws. In the absence of any provision in the articles or bylaws, the 30 terms shall be one year. No amendment of the articles or bylaws may extend the term of a director beyond that for which the director was elected, nor may any bylaw provision increasing the terms of directors be adopted 34 without approval of the members.
- (b) Unless the articles or bylaws otherwise provide, 35 36 each director, including a director elected to fill a 37 vacancy, shall hold office until the expiration of the term for which elected and until a successor has been elected and qualified.

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- (c) The articles or bylaws may prescribe requirements 2 for eligibility for election as a director.
- (d) Subdivisions (a) through (c) notwithstanding, all or any portion of the directors authorized in the articles or bylaws of a corporation may hold office by virtue of designation or selection as provided by the articles or bylaws rather than by election by a member or members. Such directors shall continue in office for the term prescribed by the governing article or bylaw provision, 10 or, if there is no term prescribed, until the governing 11 article or bylaw provision is duly amended or repealed, 12 except as provided in subdivision (f) of Section 12362. A 13 bylaw provision authorized by this subdivision may be 14 adopted, amended, or repealed only by approval of the 15 members (Section 12224).
- (e) If a corporation has not issued memberships and 17 (1) all the directors resign, die, or become incompetent, 18 or (2) a corporation's initial directors have not been 19 named in the articles and all incorporators resign, die, or 20 become incompetent before the election of the initial directors, the superior court of any county may appoint directors of the corporation upon application by any party in interest.

SEC. 18.

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- SEC. 17. Section 12462 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
- 12462. (a) The lesser of 250 members or members 28 representing 5 percent of the voting power, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of members, but, 30 subject to subdivisions (b) and (c), a bylaw may set a different quorum. Any bylaw amendment to increase the quorum may be adopted only by approval of the members (Section 12224). If a quorum is present, the 34 affirmative vote of the majority of the voting power 35 represented at the meeting, entitled to vote, and voting 36 on any matter shall be the act of the members unless the vote of a greater number or voting by classes is required by this part or the articles or bylaws.
- (b) Where a corporation is authorized to conduct a 39 meeting with a quorum of less than one-third of the

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voting power, then the only matters that may be voted upon at any regular meeting actually attended by less 3 than one-third of the voting power are matters notice of 4 the general nature of which was given, pursuant to the 5 first sentence of subdivision (a) of Section 12461.

- (c) Subject to subdivision (b), the members present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business adjournment notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough 10 members to leave less than a quorum, if any action taken 11 (other than adjournment) is approved by at least a 12 majority of the members required to constitute a quorum 13 or, if required by this division or the articles or the bylaws, 14 the vote of the greater number or voting by classes.
- (d) In the absence of a quorum, any meeting of 16 members may be adjourned from time to time by the vote 17 of a majority of the votes represented in person, but no 18 other business may be transacted, except as provided in subdivision (c).

SEC. 19.

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- SEC. 18. Section 25014.7 of the Corporations Code is 22 amended to read:
- 25014.7. (a) "Eligible rollup transaction" 24 rollup transaction in which the new securities issued are 25 either listed or approved for listing on a national 26 securities exchange or on the National Market System of 27 the Nasdaq Stock Market (or any successor to that 28 entity), where the national securities exchange and the 29 Nasdag Stock Market (or its successor) have been 30 certified by the commissioner under subdivision (o) of 31 Section 25100, if the exchange or Nasdaq Stock Market (or 32 its successor) requires as a condition to listing or designation that the rollup transaction be conducted in 34 accordance with procedures to protect the rights of 35 limited partners.
- (b) The rights of limited partners will be presumed to 36 37 be protected if the rollup transaction provides for the right of dissenting limited partners: 38
- receive compensation for their limited partnership units based on an appraisal of the limited

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performed partnership assets by independent an appraiser unaffiliated with the sponsor or general partner of the limited partnership and which value the assets as 4 if sold in an orderly manner in a reasonable period of time, plus or minus other balance sheet items, and less the cost of sale or refinancing. Compensation to dissenting limited partners of rollup transactions may be cash, secured debt instruments, unsecured debt instruments, or freely tradeable securities; provided, however, that:

(A) Rollups which utilize debt instruments compensation provide for a trustee and an indenture to protect the rights of the debt holders and provide a rate of interest based upon, but not less than, the then applicable federal rate as determined in accordance with Section 1274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

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- (B) Rollups which utilize unsecured debt instruments as compensation, in addition to the requirements of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), limit total leverage to 70 percent of the appraised value of the assets.
- (C) All debt securities have a term no greater than seven years and provide for prepayment with 80 percent of the net proceeds of any sale or refinancing of the assets previously owned by the entity or any part thereof.
- (D) Freely tradeable securities utilized 25 compensation to dissenting limited partners must 26 issued by an issuer whose securities are listed on a 27 certified national securities exchange or listed on the 28 National Market System of the Nasdaq Market System (or 29 its successor), if so certified, for at least one year prior to 30 the transaction, and the number of securities to be received in return for limited partnership interests must be determined by an appraisal of limited partnership assets, conducted in a manner consistent with paragraph 34 (1) of subdivision (b), in relation to the average last sale price of the freely tradeable securities in the 20-day 36 period following the transaction. If the issuer of the freely tradeable securities is affiliated with the sponsor or general partner, newly issued securities to be utilized as compensation to dissenting limited partners shall represent more than 20 percent of the issued

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outstanding shares of that class of securities after giving effect to the issuance. For the purposes of the preceding sentence, a sponsor or general partner is "affiliated" with 4 the issuer of the freely tradeable securities if the sponsor 5 or general partner receives any material compensation 6 from the issuer or its affiliates in conjunction with the rollup transaction or the purchase of the general partner's interest; provided, however, that nothing herein shall restrict the ability of a sponsor or general partner to payment for its equity interests 10 receive any compensation as otherwise provided by this section. 12

- (2) To receive or retain a security with substantially 13 the same terms and conditions as the security originally 14 held, provided that the receipt or retention of that security is not a step in a series of subsequent transactions directly or indirectly through acquisition 16 that involves otherwise future combinations or 18 reorganizations of one or more rollup participants. 19 Securities received or retained will be considered to have 20 the same terms and conditions as the security originally held if:
- (A) There is no material adverse change to dissenting 23 limited partners' rights, including, but not limited to, 24 rights with respect to voting, the business plan, or the distribution, management compensation 25 investment. and liquidation policies of the limited partnership or resulting entity.
- (B) The dissenting limited partners receive the same 29 preferences, privileges, priorities and as pursuant to the security originally held.

The rights set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) are the 32 only rights of dissenting limited partners to which the presumption under subdivision (b) applies. A general shall file an application partner or sponsor qualification pursuant to Section 25110 or Section 25120 36 with respect to any other rights proposed to be offered to dissenting limited partners.

At the time a registration statement is filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to an eligible rollup transaction, a general partner or sponsor **— 27 —** AB 1895

shall notify, to the maximum extent permitted by the federal securities laws, each limited partner who has an 3 address in this state by certified mail of the following: 4 That a registration statement has been filed with the 5 Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to a 6 rollup transaction; that the general partner or sponsor claims an exemption from the review process under the 8 law by virtue of Section 25014.7, which defines "eligible rollup transaction"; that the general partner or sponsor 10 has the burden of proof under the law that the transaction meets the definition of eligible rollup transaction; and 12 that the commissioner does not recommend or endorse 13 the transaction. 14

(c) The rights of limited partners shall be presumed 15 not to be protected if the general partner:

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- (1) Converts an equity interest in the limited 17 partnerships subject to a rollup for which consideration 18 was not paid and which was not otherwise provided for 19 in the limited partnership agreement and disclosed to limited partners, into a voting interest in the new entity, provided, however, an interest originally obtained in 22 order to comply with the provisions of Internal Revenue 23 Service Revenue Proclamation 89-12 may be converted.
- (2) Fails to follow the valuation provisions in the 25 limited partnership agreements of the subject limited valuing partners when their limited partnership interests.
- (3) Utilizes a future value of their equity interest 29 rather than the current value of their equity interest, as 30 determined by an appraisal conducted in a manner consistent with paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), when determining their interest in the new entity.
- (d) The rights of limited partners shall be presumed 34 not to be protected as to voting rights, if:
- (1) The voting rights in the entity resulting from a 36 rollup do not generally follow the original voting rights of the limited partnerships participating in the rollup transaction.
- (2) A majority of the interest in an entity resulting 39 from a rollup transaction may not, without concurrence

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by the sponsor, general partners, board of directors or trustee, depending on the form of entity, vote to:

- (A) Amend the limited partnership agreement, articles of incorporation or bylaws, or indenture.
 - (B) Dissolve the entity.

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- (C) Remove management and elect new management.
- (D) Approve or disapprove the sale of substantially all of the assets of the entity.
- (3) The general partner or sponsor proposing a rollup 11 is not required to provide each person whose equity 12 interest is subject to the rollup transaction with a document which instructs the person on the proper 14 procedure for voting against or dissenting from the rollup 15 transaction.
- (4) The general partner or sponsor does not utilize an 17 independent third party to receive and tabulate all votes 18 and dissents, and require that the third party make the tabulation available to the general partner and any limited partner upon request at any time during and after voting occurs.
- (e) The rights of limited partners shall be presumed 23 not to be protected as to transaction costs if:
- (1) Limited partners bear an unfair portion of the 25 transaction costs of a proposed rollup transaction that is rejected. For purposes of this provision, transaction costs are defined as the costs of printing and mailing the proxy, prospectus, or other documents; legal fees not related to 29 the solicitation of votes or tenders; financial advisory fees; 30 investment banking fees; appraisal fees; accounting fees; independent committee expenses; travel expenses; and 32 all other fees related to the preparatory work of the transaction, but not including costs that would have 34 otherwise incurred by subject been the partnerships in the ordinary course of business, or 36 solicitation expenses.
- (2) Transaction costs of a rejected rollup transaction 38 are apportioned between general and limited partners of the subject limited partnerships according to the final vote on the proposed transaction as follows:

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(A) The general partner or sponsor bears all rollup transaction costs in proportion to the number of votes to reject the rollup transaction.

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- bear transaction (B) Limited partners costs in proportion to the number of votes to approve the rollup transaction.
- (3) The dissenting limited partnership is required to pay any of the costs of the rollup transaction and the general partner or sponsor is not required to pay the 10 rollup transaction costs on behalf of the dissenting limited partnerships in a rollup in which one or more limited partnerships determines not to approve the transaction, 13 but where the rollup transaction is consummated with 14 respect to one or more approving limited partnerships.
- (f) The rights of limited partners shall be presumed 16 not to be protected as to fees of general partners and sponsors, if:
- (1) General partners and sponsors are not prevented receiving unearned management 19 from both discounted to a present value, if those fees were not provided for in the limited partnership previously agreement and disclosed to limited partners, and new 23 asset-based fees.
- (2) Property management fees and other 25 management fees are not appropriate, not reasonable and greater than what would be paid to third parties for performing similar services.
- (3) Changes in fees which are substantial and adverse 29 to limited partners are not approved by an independent committee according to the facts and circumstances of each transaction.
- (g) A general partner or sponsor proposing a rollup 33 transaction shall pay all solicitation expenses related to 34 the transaction, including all preparatory work related 35 thereto, in the event the rollup transaction is not 36 approved. For purposes of this section, "solicitation expenses" include direct marketing expenses such as 38 telephone calls, broker-dealer fact sheets, legal and other fees related to the solicitation, as well as direct solicitation compensation to brokers and dealers.

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- (h) A broker or dealer may not receive compensation for soliciting votes or tenders from limited partners in connection with a rollup transaction unless compensation:
- (1) Is payable and equal in amount regardless 6 whether the limited partner votes affirmatively negatively in the proposed rollup.
 - (2) In the aggregate, does not exceed 2 percent of the exchange value of the newly created securities.
 - (3) Is paid regardless of whether the limited partners reject the proposed rollup transaction.
- (i) As used in this section, the following terms have the 13 following meanings:
- partnership" (1) "Limited includes any entity 15 determined to be a "partnership" pursuant to Section 16 14(h)(4)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or such other entity having a substantially economically 18 equivalent form of ownership instrument.
- (2) "Dissenting limited partner" means a holder or a 20 beneficial interest in a limited partnership that is the 21 subject of a rollup transaction who casts a vote against the 22 rollup transaction, except that for purposes 23 exchange or tender offer dissenting limited partner 24 means any person who files a dissent from the terms of the 25 transaction with the party responsible for tabulating the 26 votes or tenders, to be received in connection with the 27 transaction during the period in which the offer is 28 outstanding.
- (3) "Management fee" means a fee paid to the 30 sponsor, general partner, their affiliates, or other persons for management and administration of the limited partnership.
 - SEC. 20.
- 34 SEC. 19. Section 25100 of the Corporations Code is 35 amended to read:
- 25100. The following securities are exempted from 36 37 Sections 25110, 25120, and 25130:
- (a) Any security (including a revenue 38 issued or guaranteed by the United States, any state, any city, county, city and county, public district, public

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authority, public corporation, public entity, or political subdivision of a state or any agency or corporate or other instrumentality of any one or more of the foregoing; or any certificate of deposit for any of the foregoing.

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- (b) Any security issued or guaranteed by Canada, any 6 Canadian province, any political subdivision municipality of that province, or by any other foreign government with which the United States currently maintains diplomatic relations, if the security recognized as a valid obligation by the issuer or guarantor; or any certificate of deposit for any of the 12 foregoing.
- (c) Any security issued or guaranteed 14 representing an interest in or a direct obligation of a 15 national bank or a bank or trust company incorporated 16 under the laws of this state, and any security issued by a 17 bank to one or more other banks and representing an 18 interest in an asset of the issuing bank.
- (d) Any security issued or guaranteed by a federal 20 savings association or federal savings bank or federal land 21 bank or joint land bank or national farm loan association 22 or by any savings association, as defined in subdivision (a) 23 of Section 5102 of the Financial Code, which is subject to 24 the supervision and regulation of the Commissioner of 25 Financial Institutions of this state.
- (e) Any security (other than an interest in all or 27 portions of a parcel or parcels of real property which are 28 subdivided land or a subdivision or in a real estate development), the issuance of which is subject to authorization by the Insurance Commissioner, the Public Utilities Commission, or the Real Estate Commissioner of this state.
- (f) Any security consisting of any interest in all or 34 portions of a parcel or parcels of real property which are subdivided lands or a subdivision or in a real estate 36 development; provided that the exemption in subdivision shall not be applicable to: (1) any investment 38 contract sold or offered for sale with, or as part of, that interest, or (2) any person engaged in the business of selling, distributing, or supplying water for irrigation

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purposes or domestic use that is not a public utility except that the exemption is applicable to any security of a water company (other than an investment contract as described in paragraph (1)) offered or sold in connection with subdivided lands pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 14310) of Part 7 of Division 3 of Title 1.

- (g) Any mutual capital certificates or savings accounts, as defined in the Savings Association Law, issued by a 10 savings association, as defined by subdivision (a) of Section 5102 of the Financial Code, and holding a license certificate of authority then in force from the 12 or Commissioner of Financial Institutions of this state.
- (h) Any security issued or guaranteed by any federal 15 credit union, or by any credit union organized and 16 supervised, or regulated, under the Credit Union Law.
- (i) Any security issued or guaranteed by any railroad, 18 other common carrier, public utility, or public utility holding company which is (1) subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission or its successor or (2) a holding company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or a subsidiary of that company within the meaning of that act or (3) regulated 25 in respect of the issuance or guarantee of the security by 26 a governmental authority of the United States, of any 27 state, of Canada or of any Canadian province; and the security is subject to registration with or authorization of 29 issuance by that authority.
- (j) Any security (except evidences of indebtedness, 31 whether interest bearing or not) of an issuer (1) exclusively for educational. 32 organized benevolent. fraternal, religious, charitable, social, or reformatory 34 purposes and not for pecuniary profit, if no part of the net 35 earnings of the issuer inures to the benefit of any private 36 shareholder or individual, or (2) organized as a chamber of commerce or trade or professional association. The fact that amounts received from memberships or dues or both will or may be used to construct or otherwise acquire facilities for use by members of the nonprofit

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1 organization does not disqualify the organization for this exemption. This exemption does not apply to the 3 securities of any nonprofit organization if any promoter 4 thereof expects or intends to make a profit directly or indirectly from any business or activity associated with 5 6 organization or operation of that organization or from remuneration received from that nonprofit organization.

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- (k) Any agreement, commonly known as a 10 income contract," of an issuer (1) organized exclusively educational, benevolent, fraternal, charitable, social, or reformatory purposes and not for pecuniary profit and (2) which the commissioner 14 designates by rule or order, with a donor in consideration 15 of a donation of property to that issuer and providing for 16 the payment to the donor or persons designated by him or her of income or specified periodic payments from the 18 donated property or other property for the life of the donor or those other persons.
- (1) Any note, draft, bill of exchange, or banker's 21 acceptance which is freely transferable and of prime quality, arises out of a current transaction or the proceeds 23 of which have been or are to be used for current 24 transactions, and which evidences an obligation to pay 25 cash within nine months of the date of issuance, exclusive 26 of days of grace, or any renewal of that paper which is 27 likewise limited, or any guarantee of that paper or of that renewal, provided that the paper is not offered to the 29 public in amounts of less than twenty-five thousand 30 dollars (\$25,000) in the aggregate to any one purchaser. 31 In addition, the commissioner may, by rule or order, exempt any issuer of any notes, drafts, bills of exchange banker's acceptances from qualification of those when the commissioner securities finds that qualification is not necessary or appropriate in the public 36 interest or for the protection of investors.
 - (m) Any security issued by any corporation organized existing under the provisions of Chapter 1 and (commencing with Section 54001) of Division 20 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

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(n) Any beneficial interest in an employees' pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus or similar benefit plan which meets the requirements for qualification under Section 401 of the federal Internal Revenue Code or any statute thereof or supplementary amendatory thereto. determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service stating that an employees' pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus or similar benefit plan meets those requirements 9 shall be conclusive evidence that the plan is an 10 employees' pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus or similar benefit plan within the meaning of the first sentence of 12 this subdivision until the date the determination letter is revoked in writing by the Internal Revenue Service, 14 regardless of whether or not the revocation is retroactive.

(o) Any security listed or approved for listing upon 16 notice of issuance on a national securities exchange or on 17 the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market 18 (or any successor to that entity), if the exchange or 19 Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) has been certified 20 by rule or order of the commissioner and any warrant or 21 right to purchase or subscribe to the security. The 22 exemption afforded by this subdivision does not apply to 23 securities listed or approved for listing upon notice of 24 issuance on a national securities exchange or on the 25 National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market (or 26 its successor), in a rollup transaction unless the rollup transaction is an eligible rollup transaction as defined in Section 25014.7.

That certification of any exchange or the Nasdaq Stock 30 Market (or its successor) shall be made by the commissioner upon the written request of the exchange 32 or Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) if the commissioner finds that the exchange or Nasdaq Stock 34 Market (or its successor): (i) in acting on applications for applies 35 listing of common stock substantially 36 minimum standards set forth in either alternative (A) or 37 (B) of paragraph (1), and (ii) in considering suspension or removal from listing, substantially applies each of the criteria set forth in paragraph (2).

(1) Listing standards:

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(A) (i) Shareholders' equity of at least four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

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- (ii) Pretax income of at least seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) in the issuer's last fiscal year or in two of its last three fiscal years.
- (iii) Minimum public distribution of 500,000 shares 6 (exclusive of the holdings of officers, controlling shareholders, and other concentrated family holdings), together with a minimum of 800 public 10 holders or minimum public distribution of 1,000,000 shares together with a minimum of 400 public holders. The exchange or Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) 12 may also consider the listing of a company's securities if 14 the company has a minimum of 500,000 shares publicly 15 held, a minimum of 400 shareholders and daily trading 16 volume in the issue has been approximately 2,000 shares 17 or more for the six months preceding the date of application. In evaluating the suitability of an issue for listing under this trading provision, the exchange or 20 Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) shall review the 21 nature and frequency of that activity and any other 22 factors as it may determine to be relevant in ascertaining 23 whether the issue is suitable for trading. A security that trades infrequently shall not be considered for listing under this paragraph even though average daily volume amounts to 2,000 shares per day or more.

Companies whose securities are concentrated in a 28 limited geographical area, or whose securities are largely held in block by institutional investors, normally may not 30 be considered eligible for listing unless the public distribution appreciably exceeds 500,000 shares.

(iv) Minimum price of three dollars (\$3) per share for a reasonable period of time prior to the filing of a listing application; provided, however, in certain instances an exchange or Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) may 36 favorably consider listing an issue selling for less than three dollars (\$3) per share after considering pertinent factors, including market conditions in general, whether historically the issue has sold above three dollars 40 (\$3) per share, the applicant's capitalization, and the AB 1895 -36-

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number of outstanding and publicly held shares of the issue.

- 3 (v) An aggregate market value for publicly held shares of at least three million dollars (\$3,000,000).
 - (B) (i) Shareholders' equity of at least four million dollars (\$4,000,000).
 - (ii) Minimum public distribution set forth in clause (iii) of subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1).
 - (iii) Operating history of at least three years.
 - (iv) An aggregate market value for publicly held shares of at least fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000).
 - (2) Criteria for consideration of suspension or removal from listing:
- (i) If a company that (A) has shareholders' equity of 15 less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) has sustained net 16 losses in each of its two most recent fiscal years, or (B) has net tangible assets of less than three million dollars 18 (\$3,000,000) and has sustained net losses in three of its 19 four most recent fiscal years.
- (ii) If the number of shares publicly held (excluding 21 the holdings officers. directors. of controlling shareholders and other concentrated or family holdings) is less than 150,000.
- (iii) If the total number of shareholders is less than 400 25 or if the number of shareholders of lots of 100 shares or more is less than 300.
- (iv) If the aggregate market value of shares publicly 28 held is less than seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000).
 - (v) If shares of common stock sell at a price of less than three dollars (\$3) per share for a substantial period of time and the issuer shall fail to effectuate a reverse stock split of the shares within a reasonable period of time after being requested by the exchange to take that action.

A national securities exchange or Nasdaq Stock Market 36 (or its successor), certified by rule or order of the commissioner under this subdivision, shall file annual reports when requested to do so by the commissioner. The annual reports shall contain, by issuer: the variances granted to an exchange's listing standards or Nasdaq **— 37 — AB 1895**

Stock Market's (or its successor) criteria, including variances from corporate governance and voting rights' standards, for any security of that issuer; the reasons for 4 the variances; a discussion of the review procedure 5 instituted by the exchange or Nasdaq Stock Market (or its 6 successor) to determine the effect of the variances on investors and whether the variances should be continued: and any other information that the commissioner deems relevant. The purpose of these reports is to assist the 10 commissioner in determining whether the quantitative and qualitative requirements of this subdivision substantially being met by the exchange in general or 12 13 with regard to any particular security. 14

commissioner after appropriate notice and hearing accordance 15 opportunity for in with the 16 provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, Chapter 17 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 18 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, may, in his or her 19 discretion, by rule or order, decertify any exchange or 20 Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) previously 21 certified that ceases substantially to apply the minimum standards or criteria as set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2).

A rule or order of certification shall conclusively 24 establish that any security listed or approved for listing upon notice of issuance on any exchange, or listed on the 26 National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market (or 27 its successor), named in a rule or order of certification, and any warrant or right to purchase or subscribe to that security, is exempt under this subdivision until the adoption by the commissioner of any rule or order decertifying the exchange or the Nasdaq Stock Market 32 (or its successor).

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- (p) A promissory note secured by a lien on real 34 property, which is neither one of a series of notes of equal priority secured by interests in the same real property nor 36 a note in which beneficial interests are sold to more than one person or entity.
- 38 (q) Any unincorporated interindemnity or reciprocal interinsurance contract, that qualifies under provisions of Section 1280.7 of the Insurance Code,

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of a cooperative between members corporation, organized and operating under Part 2 (commencing with Section 12200) of Division 3 of Title 1, and whose members consist only of physicians and surgeons licensed in California, which contracts indemnify solely in respect to medical malpractice claims against the members, and which do not collect in advance of loss any moneys other than contributions by each member to a collective 9 reserve trust fund or for necessary expenses 10 administration.

- (1) Whenever it appears to the commissioner that any 12 person has engaged or is about to engage in any act or 13 practice constituting a violation of any provision of 14 Section 1280.7 of the Insurance Code, the commissioner 15 may, in the commissioner's discretion, bring an action in 16 the name of the people of the State of California in the superior court to enjoin the acts or practices or to enforce 18 compliance with Section 1280.7 of the Insurance Code. 19 Upon a proper showing a permanent or preliminary 20 injunction, a restraining order, or a writ of mandate shall be granted and a receiver or conservator may be appointed for the defendant or the defendant's assets.
- (2) The commissioner may, in the commissioner's 24 discretion, (A) make public or private investigations 25 within or outside of this state as the commissioner deems 26 necessary to determine whether any person has violated 27 or is about to violate any provision of Section 1280.7 of the 28 Insurance Code or to aid in the enforcement of Section 1280.7, and (B) publish information concerning the 30 violation of Section 1280.7.
- (3) For the purpose of any investigation or proceeding 32 under this section, the commissioner or any officer designated by the commissioner may administer oaths affirmations, subpoena witnesses, and compel attendance, take evidence, and require the production of correspondence, any books, papers, memoranda, agreements, or other documents or records which the commissioner deems relevant or material to the inquiry.
- 39 (4) In case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued to, any person, the superior court, upon

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application by the commissioner, may issue to the person an order requiring the person to appear before the 3 commissioner, or the officer designated by commissioner, to produce documentary evidence, if so ordered, or to give evidence touching the matter under investigation or in question. Failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt.

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- (5) No person is excused from attending or testifying or from producing any document or record before the 10 commissioner or in obedience to the subpoena of the commissioner or any officer designated 12 commissioner, or in any proceeding instituted by the 13 commissioner, on the ground that the testimony or 14 evidence (documentary or otherwise), required of the 15 person may tend to incriminate the person or subject the 16 person to a penalty or forfeiture, but no individual may 17 be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for 18 or on account of any transaction, matter, or thing 19 concerning which the person is compelled, after validly 20 claiming the privilege against self-incrimination, testify or produce evidence (documentary or otherwise), except that the individual testifying is not exempt from 23 prosecution and punishment for perjury or contempt 24 committed in testifying.
- (6) The cost of any review, examination, audit, or 26 investigation made by the commissioner under Section 27 1280.7 of the Insurance Code shall be paid to the 28 commissioner by the person subject to the review, investigation, 29 examination. audit. or 30 commissioner may maintain an action for the recovery of 31 these costs in any court of competent jurisdiction. In 32 determining the cost, the commissioner may use the actual amount of the salary or other compensation paid 34 to the persons making the review, examination, audit, or investigation plus the actual amount of expenses 36 including overhead reasonably incurred in the performance of the work.

The recoverable cost of each review, examination, audit, or investigation made by the commissioner under Section 1280.7 of the Insurance Code shall not exceed AB 1895 **— 40 —**

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twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), except that costs exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) shall be 3 recoverable if the costs are necessary to prevent a 4 violation of any provision of Section 1280.7 of the 5 Insurance Code.

- (r) Any shares memberships issued by or any corporation organized and existing pursuant to provisions of Part 2 (commencing with Section 12200) of 9 Division 3 of Title 1, provided the aggregate investment 10 of any shareholder or member in shares or memberships sold pursuant to this subdivision does not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300). This exemption does not apply to 12 13 the shares or memberships of that corporation if any promoter thereof expects or intends to make a profit directly or indirectly from any business or activity 15 16 associated with the corporation or the operation of the corporation or from remuneration, other than reasonable 17 18 salary, received from the corporation. This exemption does not apply to nonvoting shares or memberships of that corporation issued to any person who does not possess, and who will not acquire in connection with the 21 22 issuance of nonvoting shares or memberships, voting power (Section 12253) in the corporation. exemption also does not apply to shares or memberships issued by a nonprofit cooperative corporation organized the creation of 26 facilitate an unincorporated 27 interindemnity that arrangement provides indemnification for medical malpractice to its physician and surgeon members as set forth in subdivision (q).
 - (s) Any security consisting of or representing interest in a pool of mortgage loans that meets each of the following requirements:
- (1) The pool consists of whole mortgage loans or 34 participation interests in those loans, which loans were originated or acquired in the ordinary course of business 36 by a national bank or federal savings association or federal savings bank having its principal office in this state, by a bank incorporated under the laws of this state or by a savings association as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 5102 of the Financial Code and which is subject to the

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supervision and regulation of the Commissioner of Financial Institutions, and each of which at the time of transfer to the pool is an authorized investment for the originating or acquiring institution.

- (2) The pool of mortgage loans is held in trust by a 6 trustee which is a financial institution specified in paragraph (1) as trustee or otherwise.
 - (3) The loans are serviced by a financial institution specified in paragraph (1).
 - (4) The security is not offered in amounts of less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) in the aggregate to any one purchaser.
- (5) The security is offered pursuant to a registration 14 under the Securities Act of 1933, or pursuant to an exemption under Regulation A under that act, or in the 16 opinion of counsel for the issuer, is offered pursuant to an exemption under Section 4(2) of that act.
- (t) (1) Any security issued or guaranteed by 19 representing an interest in or a direct obligation of an 20 industrial loan company incorporated under the laws of and authorized by the Commissioner of state 22 Financial Institutions to engage in industrial loan business.
- (2) Any investment certificate in or issued by any 25 industrial loan company that is organized under the laws of a state of the United States other than this state, that is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and that maintains a branch office in this state.

SEC. 21.

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- SEC. 20. Section 25101 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:
- 25101. The following securities are exempt from the 32 33 provisions of Section 25130:
- 34 (a) Any security issued by a person that is the issuer of 35 any security listed on a national securities exchange, or on 36 the National Market System of the Nasdaq Stock Market 37 (or any successor to that entity), if the exchange or
- Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) is certified by rule
- or order of the commissioner.

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(b) The exemption provided by subdivision (a) does not apply to securities offered pursuant to a registration under the Securities Act of 1933 or pursuant to the exemption afforded by Regulation A under that act if the aggregate offering price of the securities pursuant to that exemption exceeds fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000).

SEC. 22. Section 25102 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

25102. The following transactions are exempted from the provisions of Section 25110:

(a) Any offer (but not a sale) not involving any public offering and the execution and delivery of any agreement for the sale of securities pursuant to the offer if (1) the agreement contains substantially the following provision: "The sale of the securities that are the subject of this agreement has not been qualified with the Commissioner of Corporations of the State of California and the issuance of the securities or the payment or receipt of any part of the consideration therefor prior to the qualification is unlawful, unless the sale of securities is exempt from the qualification by Section 25100, 25102, or 25105 of the California Corporations Code. The rights of all parties to this agreement are expressly conditioned upon the qualification being obtained, unless the sale is so exempt"; and (2) no part of the purchase price is paid or received and none of the securities are issued until the sale of the securities is qualified under this law unless the sale of securities is exempt from the qualification by this section, Section 25100, or 25105.

(b) Any offer (but not a sale) of a security for which 32 a registration statement has been filed under the Securities Act of 1933 but has not yet become effective, 34 or for which an offering statement under Regulation A has been filed but has not yet been qualified, if no stop order or refusal order is in effect and no public proceeding or examination looking toward such an order is pending under Section 8 of the act and no order under Section 25140 or subdivision (a) of Section 25143 is in effect under this law.

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(c) Any offer (but not a sale) and the execution and delivery of any agreement for the sale of securities pursuant to the offer as may be permitted by the commissioner upon application. Any negotiating permit under this subdivision shall be conditioned to the effect that none of the securities may be issued and none of the consideration therefor may be received or accepted until the sale of the securities is qualified under this law.

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- (d) Any transaction or agreement between the issuer and an underwriter or among underwriters if the sale of the securities is qualified, or exempt from qualification, at the time of distribution thereof in this state, if any.
- (e) Any offer or sale of any evidence of indebtedness, whether secured or unsecured, and any guarantee thereof, in a transaction not involving any public offering.
- (f) Any offer or sale of any security in a transaction (other than an offer or sale to a pension or profit-sharing trust of the issuer) that meets each of the following eriteria:
- (1) Sales of the security are not made to more than 35 persons, including persons not in this state.
- (2) All purchasers either have a preexisting personal or business relationship with the offeror or any of its partners, officers, directors or controlling persons, or managers (as appointed or elected by the members) if the offeror is a limited liability company, or by reason of their business or financial experience or the business or financial experience of their professional advisers who are unaffiliated with and who are not compensated by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer, directly or indirectly, could be reasonably assumed to have the eapacity to protect their own interests in connection with the transaction.
- (3) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser's own account (or a trust 36 account if the purchaser is a trustee) and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the security.
 - (4) The offer and sale of the security is not accomplished by the publication of any advertisement.

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The number of purchasers referred to above is exclusive of any described in subdivision (i), any officer, director, 3 or affiliate of the issuer, or manager (as appointed or elected by the members) if the issuer is a limited liability 4 company, and any other purchaser who the commissioner designates by rule. For purposes of this 5 6 section, a husband and wife (together with any custodian or trustee acting for the account of their minor children) 8 9 are counted as one person and a partnership, corporation, or other organization that was not specifically formed for 10 the purpose of purchasing the security offered in reliance upon this exemption, is counted as one person. The 12 commissioner may by rule require the issuer to file a 13 notice of transactions under this subdivision. However, the failure to file the notice or the failure to file the notice 15 within the time specified by the rule of the commissioner 16 17 shall not affect the availability of this exemption. An issuer who fails to file the notice as provided by rule of the 18 commissioner shall, within 15 business days after demand 19 by the commissioner, file the notice and pay to the commissioner a fee equal to the fee payable had the 22 transaction been qualified under Section 25110. 23

- (g) Any offer or sale of conditional sale agreements, equipment trust certificates, or certificates of interest or participation therein or partial assignments thereof, covering the purchase of railroad rolling stock or equipment or the purchase of motor vehicles, aircraft, or parts thereof, in a transaction not involving any public
- (h) Any offer or sale of voting common stock by a corporation incorporated in any state if, immediately after the proposed sale and issuance, there will be only one class of stock of the corporation outstanding that is owned beneficially by no more than 35 persons, provided all of the following requirements have been met:
- (1) The offer and sale of the stock is not accompanied by the publication of any advertisement, and no selling expenses have been given, paid, or incurred in connection therewith.

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(2) The consideration to be received by the issuer for the stock to be issued consists of any of the following:

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- (A) Only assets (which may include eash) of an existing business enterprise transferred to the issuer upon its initial organization, of which all of the persons who are to receive the stock to be issued pursuant to this exemption were owners during, and the enterprise was operated for, a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the proposed issuance, and the ownership of the enterprise immediately prior to the proposed issuance was in the same proportions as the shares of stock are to be issued.
- (B) Only cash or cancellation of indebtedness for money borrowed, or both, upon the initial organization of the issuer, provided all of the stock is issued for the same price per share.
- (C) Only eash, provided the sale is approved in writing by each of the existing shareholders and the purchaser or purchasers are existing shareholders.
- (D) In a case where after the proposed issuance there will be only one owner of the stock of the issuer, only any legal consideration.
- (3) No promotional consideration has been given, paid, or incurred in connection with the issuance. Promotional consideration means any consideration paid directly or indirectly to a person who, acting alone or in conjunction with one or more other persons, takes the initiative in founding and organizing the business or enterprise of an issuer for services rendered in connection with the founding or organizing.
- (4) A notice in a form prescribed by rule of the commissioner, signed by an active member of the State Bar of California, is filed with or mailed for filing to the commissioner not later than 10 business days after receipt of consideration for the securities by the issuer. That 36 notice shall contain an opinion of the member of the State Bar of California that the exemption provided by this subdivision is available for the offer and sale of the securities. However, the failure to file the notice as required by this subdivision and the rules of the

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commissioner shall not affect the availability of this exemption. An issuer who fails to file the notice within the time specified by this subdivision shall, within 15 business 3 days after demand by the commissioner, file the notice 4 and pay to the commissioner a fee equal to the fee payable 5 had the transaction been qualified under Section 25110. 6 The notice, except when filed on behalf of a California corporation, shall be accompanied by an irrevocable 8 9 consent, in the form that the commissioner by rule prescribes, appointing the commissioner or his or her 10 successor in office to be the issuer's attorney to receive service of any lawful process in any noncriminal suit, 12 13 action, or proceeding against it or its successor that arises 14 under this law or any rule or order hereunder after the consent has been filed, with the same force and validity 15 as if served personally on the issuer. An issuer on whose 16 17 behalf a consent has been filed in connection with a previous qualification or exemption from qualification 18 under this law (or application for a permit under any 19 prior law if the application or notice under this law states 21 that the consent is still effective) need not file another. 22 Service may be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the commissioner, but it is not effective unless (A) the plaintiff, who may be the commissioner in a suit, action, or proceeding instituted by him or her, 25 forthwith sends notice of the service and a copy of the process by registered or certified mail to the defendant 28 or respondent at its last address on file with the commissioner, and (B) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this section is filed in the case on or 30 31 before the return day of the process, if any, or within the further time as the court allows. 32 33

(5) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser's own account, or a trust account if the purchaser is a trustee, and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the stock.

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For the purposes of this subdivision, all securities held by a husband and wife, whether or not jointly, shall be considered to be owned by one person, and all securities — 47 — AB 1895

held by a corporation that has issued stock pursuant to this exemption shall be considered to be held by the shareholders to whom it has issued the stock.

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All stock issued by a corporation pursuant to this subdivision as it existed prior to the effective date of the amendments to this section made during the 1996 portion of the 1995–96 Regular Session that required the issuer to have stamped or printed prominently on the face of the stock certificate a legend in a form prescribed by rule of the commissioner restricting transfer of the stock in a manner provided for by that rule shall not be subject to the transfer restriction legend requirement and, by operation of law, the corporation is authorized to remove that transfer restriction legend from the certificates of those shares of stock issued by the corporation pursuant to this subdivision as it existed prior to the effective date of the amendments to this section made during the 1996 portion of the 1995–96 Regular Session.

- (i) Any offer or sale (1) to a bank, savings and loan association, trust company, insurance company, investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, pension or profit-sharing trust (other than a pension or profit-sharing trust of the issuer, a self-employed individual retirement plan, or individual retirement account), or other institutional investor or governmental agency or instrumentality that the commissioner may designate by rule, whether the purchaser is acting for itself or as trustee, or (2) to any corporation with outstanding securities registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or any wholly owned subsidiary of the corporation that after the offer and sale will own directly or indirectly 100 percent of the outstanding capital stock of the issuer, provided the purchaser represents that it is purchasing for its own account (or for the trust account) for investment and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the security.
- (j) Any offer or sale of any certificate of interest or participation in an oil or gas title or lease (including

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subsurface gas storage and payments out of production) if either of the following apply:

- (1) All of the purchasers meet one of the following requirements:
- (A) Are and have been during the preceding two years engaged primarily in the business of drilling for, producing, or refining oil or gas (or whose corporate predecessor, in the case of a corporation, has been so engaged).
- (B) Are persons described in clause (1) of subdivision
- (C) Have been found by the commissioner upon written application to be substantially engaged in the business of drilling for, producing, or refining oil or gas so as not to require the protection provided by this law (which finding shall be effective until reseinded).
- (2) The security is concurrently hypothecated to a bank in the ordinary course of business to secure a loan made by the bank, provided that each purchaser represents that it is purchasing for its own account for investment and not with a view to or for sale in connection with any distribution of the security.
- (k) Any offer or sale of any security under, or pursuant to, a plan of reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptey law that has been confirmed or is subject to confirmation by the decree or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (1) Any offer or sale of an option, warrant, put, call, or straddle, and any guarantee of any of these securities, by a person who is not the issuer of the security subject to the right, if the transaction, had it involved an offer or sale of the security subject to the right by the person, would not have violated Section 25110 or 25130.
- (m) Any offer or sale of a stock to a pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or employee stock ownership 36 plan, provided that (1) the plan meets the requirements 37 for qualification under Section 401 of the Internal 38 Revenue Code, and (2) the employees are not required or permitted individually to make any contributions to the plan. The exemption provided by this subdivision

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shall not be affected by whether the stock is contributed to the plan, purchased from the issuer with contributions by the issuer or an affiliate of the issuer, or purchased from the issuer with funds borrowed from the issuer, an affiliate of the issuer, or any other lender.

- (n) Any offer or sale of any security in a transaction, other than an offer or sale of a security in a rollup transaction, that meets all of the following criteria:
- (1) The issuer is (A) a California corporation or foreign corporation that, at the time of the filing of the notice required under this subdivision, is subject to Section 2115, or (B) any other form of business entity, including without limitation a partnership or trust organized under the laws of this state. The exemption provided by this subdivision is not available to a "blind pool" issuer, as that term is defined by the commissioner, or to an investment company subject to the Investment Company Act of 1940.
- (2) Sales of securities are made only to qualified purchasers or other persons the issuer reasonably believes, after reasonable inquiry, to be qualified purchasers. A corporation, partnership, or other organization specifically formed for the purpose of acquiring the securities offered by the issuer in reliance upon this exemption may be a qualified purchaser if each of the equity owners of the corporation, partnership, or other organization is a qualified purchaser. Qualified purchasers include the following:
- (A) A person designated in Section 260.102.13 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations.
- (B) A person designated in subdivision (i) or any rule of the commissioner adopted thereunder.
- (C) A pension or profit sharing trust of the issuer, a self-employed individual retirement plan, or an individual retirement account, if the investment decisions made on behalf of the trust, plan, or account are made solely by persons who are qualified purchasers.
- (D) An organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corporation, Massachusetts or similar business trust, or partnership, each with total

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assets in excess of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) according to its most recent audited financial statements.

(E) With respect to the offer and sale of one class of voting common stock of an issuer or of preferred stock of an issuer entitling the holder thereof to at least the same voting rights as the issuer's one class of voting common stock, provided that the issuer has only one-class voting common stock outstanding upon consummation of the offer and sale, a natural person who, either individually or jointly with the person's spouse, (i) has a minimum net worth of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) and had, during the immediately preceding tax year, gross income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and reasonably expects gross income in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) during the current tax year or (ii) has a minimum net worth of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). "Net worth" shall be determined exclusive of home, home furnishings, and automobiles. Other assets included in the computation of net worth may be valued at fair market value.

Each natural person specified above, by reason of his or her business or financial experience, or the business or financial experience of his or her professional adviser, who is unaffiliated with and who is not compensated, directly or indirectly, by the issuer or any affiliate or selling agent of the issuer, can be reasonably assumed to have the capacity to protect his or her interests in connection with the transaction. The amount of the investment of each natural person shall not exceed 10 percent of the net worth, as determined by this subparagraph, of that natural person.

- (F) Any other purchaser designated as qualified by rule of the commissioner.
- (3) Each purchaser represents that the purchaser is purchasing for the purchaser's own account (or trust account, if the purchaser is a trustee) and not with a view to or for sale in connection with a distribution of the security.
- (4) Each natural person purchaser, including a 40 corporation, partnership, or other organization

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specifically formed by natural persons for the purpose of acquiring the securities offered by the issuer, receives, at 3 least five business days before securities are sold to, or a commitment to purchase is accepted from, the purchaser, a written offering disclosure statement that 5 shall meet the disclosure requirements of Regulation D 6 (17 C.F.R. 230.501 et seq.), and any other information as 8 may be prescribed by rule of the commissioner, provided 9 that the issuer shall not be obligated pursuant to this paragraph to provide this disclosure statement to a 10 natural person qualified under Section 260.102.13 of Title 12 10 of the California Code of Regulations. The offer or sale 13 of securities pursuant to a disclosure statement required by this paragraph that is in violation of Section 25401, or 15 that fails to meet the disclosure requirements of Regulation D (17 C.F.R. 230.501 et seq.), shall not render unavailable to the issuer the claim of an exemption from 17 Section 25110 afforded by this subdivision. This paragraph 18 19 does not impose, directly or indirectly, any additional disclosure obligation with respect to any other exemption from qualification available under any other provision of 22 this section. 23

- (5) (A) A general announcement of proposed offering may be published by written document only, provided that the general announcement of proposed offering sets forth the following required information:
 - (i) The name of the issuer of the securities.

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- (ii) The full title of the security to be issued.
- (iii) The anticipated suitability standards for prospective purchasers.
- (iv) A statement that (I) no money or other consideration is being solicited or will be accepted, (II) an indication of interest made by a prospective purchaser involves no obligation or commitment of any kind, and, 34 35 if the issuer is required by paragraph (4) to deliver a disclosure statement to prospective purchasers, (III) no 36 sales will be made or commitment to purchase accepted until five business days after delivery of a disclosure statement and subscription information to the

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prospective purchaser in accordance with the requirements of this subdivision.

- (v) Any other information required by rule of the commissioner.
- (vi) The following legend: "For more complete information about (Name of Issuer) and (Full Title of Security), send for additional information from (Name and Address) by sending this coupon or calling (Telephone Number)."
- (B) The general announcement of proposed offering referred to in subparagraph (A) may also set forth the following information:
 - (i) A brief description of the business of the issuer.
- (ii) The geographic location of the issuer and its business.
- (iii) The price of the security to be issued, or, if the price is not known, the method of its determination or the probable price range as specified by the issuer, and the aggregate offering price.
- (C) The general announcement of proposed offering shall contain only the information that is set forth in this paragraph.
- (D) Dissemination of the general announcement of proposed offering to persons who are not qualified purchasers, without more, shall not disqualify the issuer from claiming the exemption under this subdivision.
- (6) No telephone solicitation shall be permitted until the issuer has determined that the prospective purchaser to be solicited is a qualified purchaser.
- (7) The issuer files a notice of transaction under this subdivision both (A) concurrent with the publication of a general announcement of proposed offering or at the time of the initial offer of the securities, whichever occurs first, accompanied by a filing fee, and (B) within 10 business days following the close or abandonment of the 36 offering, but in no case more than 210 days from the date of filing the first notice. The first notice of transaction under subparagraph (A) shall contain an undertaking, in a form acceptable to the commissioner, to deliver any disclosure statement required by paragraph (4) to be

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delivered to prospective purchasers, and any supplement 2 thereto, to the commissioner within 10 days of the commissioner's request for the information. The 3 4 exemption from qualification afforded by this subdivision 5 is unavailable if an issuer fails to file the first notice required under subparagraph (A) or to pay the filing fee. 6 The commissioner has the authority to assess an 8 administrative penalty of up to one thousand dollars 9 (\$1,000) against an issuer that fails to deliver the disclosure statement required to be delivered to the 10 commissioner upon the commissioner's request within the time period set forth above. Neither the filing of the 12 13 disclosure statement nor the failure by the commissioner to comment thereon precludes the commissioner from 14 15 taking any action deemed necessary or appropriate under this division with respect to the offer and sale of the 16 17 securities.

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(o) An offer or sale of any security issued pursuant to a stock purchase plan or agreement, or issued pursuant to a stock option plan or agreement, where the security is exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, pursuant to Rule 701 adopted pursuant to that act (17 C.F.R. 230.701), the provisions of which are hereby incorporated by reference into this section, provided that (1) the terms of any stock purchase plan or agreement shall comply with Sections 260.140.42, 260.140.45, and 260.140.46 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, (2) the terms of any stock option plan or agreement shall comply with Sections 260.140.41, 260.140.45, and 260.140.46 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations, and (3) the issuer files a notice of transaction in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner not later than 30 days after the initial issuance of any security under that plan, accompanied by a filing fee as prescribed by subdivision (y) of Section 25608.

(p) An offer or sale of nonredeemable securities to accredited investors (Section 28031) by a person licensed under the Capital Access Company Law (Division 3 (commencing with Section 28000) of Title 4). All

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nonredeemable securities shall be evidenced by certificates that shall have stamped or printed prominently on their face a legend in a form to be prescribed by rule or order of the commissioner restricting transfer of the securities in the manner as the rule or order provides. 6 7

SEC. 23.

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SEC. 21. Section 25117 of the Corporations Code is amended to read:

25117. (a) An evidence of indebtedness, and the 10 11 purchasers or holders thereof, shall be exempt from the 12 usury provisions of Section 1 of Article XV of the 13 California Constitution if (1) the evidence 14 indebtedness is rated or provisionally rated by Standard 15 & Poor's Corporation as AAA, AA, A, BBB, or investment 16 grade commercial paper, or by Moody's Investors 17 Service, Inc. as Aaa, Aa, A, Baa, or investment grade 18 commercial paper, including any such ratings with "+" 19 or "—" designation or other variations that occur within 20 these ratings, or has a rating or a provisional rating by 21 another nationally recognized rating agency or system, 22 which rating and agency or system have been certified by 23 rule or order of the commissioner, or (2) the issuer 24 thereof either (A) has any security listed or approved for 25 listing upon notice of issuance on a national securities 26 exchange or on the National Market System of the Nasdaq 27 Stock Market (or any successor to that entity), if the 28 exchange or Nasdaq Stock Market (or its successor) has certified by the commissioner, pursuant 30 subdivision (o) of Section 25100, or (B) meets each of the following requirements:

- (i) The issuer is a corporation which is subject to 33 Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.
- (ii) The issuer had total shareholders' equity of at least 35 one million dollars (\$1,000,000) at the end of its most 36 recent fiscal year, and had consolidated net income, after all charges, including taxes and extraordinary losses, and excluding extraordinary gains, of at least five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for three of its last four fiscal years, including its most recent fiscal year.

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determination of total shareholders' equity and net income shall be determined in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to that fiscal year or years, on a consolidated basis, or (3) the evidence 5 of indebtedness is issued by any corporation all of the 6 outstanding shares of which are owned by an issuer which meets the requirements of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2). 9

(b) This section creates and authorizes a class of 10 transactions and persons pursuant to Section 1 of Article XV of the California Constitution.

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- evidence of indebtedness (c) Any issued 13 compliance with this section shall be entitled to the 14 benefits of the usury exemption contained in this section 15 regardless of whether subsequent to its issuance the 16 evidence of indebtedness is determined by a court of 17 competent jurisdiction to be a "security."
- SEC. 22. Section 11521.2 of the Insurance Code is 18 19 amended to read:
- 11521.2. (a) The reserve required by the table of 21 commensurate values for each annuity contract issued 22 must be invested in investments specified in Sections 1170 23 through 1182 except that a certificate holder may invest 24 in securities listed and traded on the New York Stock 25 Exchange, the American Stock Exchange or regional 26 stock exchanges or the National Market System of the 27 Nasdaq Stock Market or successors to such exchanges or 28 market having the same qualifications, to the extent of 29 the lesser of net worth (assets over liabilities and 30 reserves) of the certificate holder or 10 percent of such general investments. This section does 32 investment in options or commodity exchanges.
- 33 (b) The certificate holder may invest in such other 34 investments as permitted by and subject to the written 35 consent of the commissioner.